

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:


I am requesting this funding for the Somerville YMCA Renovation – Universal Access to Pre-K in Somerset, New Jersey, 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of New Jersey in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Greater Somerset YMCA, located at 140 Mount Airy Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920. The funding would be used for the Somerville YMCA renovation of a two-story renovation in order to build classrooms to NJ Department of Education (DOE) preschool standards. The main floor of Somerville YMCA, which was built in 1960, includes Member Services, Administrative Offices, and Multipurpose Rooms. In order to accommodate preschool classrooms, the renovation plan would relocate those spaces to the facility's lower level.

Then, the YMCA would renovate the main level to include six classrooms built according to NJ DOE guidelines, which require 950 square-foot classrooms with adjoining bathrooms for 15 students in each classroom. The renovation plan would also include an elevator for accessibility to the lower level of the building for the children to access to the pool for swim lessons, as well as establish a separate school entrance for the safety and security of the children. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because as a nonprofit, community benefit organization, Greater Somerset County YMCA's mission is to strengthen the community by providing everyone with the support and resources needed to thrive. The renovation of Somerville YMCA is a capital project that would benefit the community with expanded access to preschool through a partnership between Greater Somerset County YMCA and the Somerville Board of Education.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress